

30 June 45

Dear Bill,

After mailing my long overdue letter to Bill Swartley, I suddenly realized what an inadequate report it was. I particularly disliked the hazy and jargon-loaded section telling of my plans for a super-fidelity sound system for the studio. Considerable clarification will have to take place before the club can be expected to support me in this matter. Here goes.

In the first place, I feel that everything that has been done in the past on the technical facilities of the station has been far below our possible ^{other} standards. Clark, Sevringhaus, Thomas and the boys who started the ~~win~~ station were interested principally in the technical aspects of the station. They worked hard, fought with the Council and Dr. Palmer for funds, and made the connection with IBS. Their equipment operated far better than what we have today - as long as they were around to know its quirks, and keep it running. However, they didn't have money or time to buy good parts, and build foolproof equipment. They were also very little interested in maintaining professional standards in programming, engineering, etc. I am not trying to look back into the dim past in this discussion, for I realize that WHAV is only three years old this November. However, it is hard to conceive how rapidly this college radio business has grown during the war. My guess is that WHAV will have the largest membership, the ~~bigga~~ highest income, and the biggest audience, off campus and on, of any extra-curricular activity when V-J day comes. I think we already have the largest membership, though not all of it is active; we are virtually assured the largest income by our advertising; but audience is something to work for. You will note that I said off campus as well as on. Today we spill over ~~into~~ beyond Railroad Avenue and even to parts of Bryn ^{Ma}war. Tomorrow we will probably do so legally. This was the indication we got this spring from Louis Bloch. I don't suggest expanding this way until we get Federal approval, however.

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Dear Bill,

After mailing my long overdue letter to Bill Swetley, I suddenly realized what an inadequate report it was. I particularly disliked the heavy and Jargon-laden section telling of my plans for a super-fidelity sound system for the studio. Considerable clarification will have to take place before the club can be expected to support me in this matter. Here goes.

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IBS has done much to make collegiate radio more than a plaything. I heartily agree with this trend. Of course, college radio must preserve its freedom of action- its right to put on Fifth Entry Follies, as well as Classical Hours. I feel that the economics of college radio demand that freedom, however. Haverford's income, for example, can never exceed two or three thousand dollars a year. ~~xxxxx~~ That would support WIP for two or three days. The result is that we must depend on amateur talent, amateur equipment, and amateur engineering. We therefore enjoy amateur privileges, and will continue to do so, no matter who supports us. We won't have professional radio's sacred duty to stay on the air during our contracted time; a playful slip of the engineer's hand won't cause disaster; we needn't worry if an occasional damn gets on the airways; and we can commit that cardinal sin of pre radio, being off your frequency. Nevertheless, Such things as breakdowns, and last minute repairs should be for entertainment, not nightly interruptions. Furthermore, the higher the quality of our transmission, the more people who will listen. Music will always form the major portion of our time on the air, and people won't listen if they can do better on their own ocarina.

I'll continue my tale of WHAV. ~~xxxxxx~~ The second group of people who worked on WHAV ~~xxx~~ included Cloyd Marvin, Walt Kato, and Henry Ecroyd. Their main difficulty, as I see it, was that they ~~xxx~~ weren't dreamers like me, and they didn't believe in New Deal economy. They lived within their incomes, didn't take on any unnecessary responsibilities, and completed a nice little studio, suitable for the present. (their present) Marvin ~~xxx~~ left Haverford also taking with him a mysterious lamp which could make that preamp, or almost anything else, work. He was a mad genius- looked like a chipmunk, slept in all his classes, and got 97s. He'd kill me if he saw that studio now; I hope he is still in Texas.

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Then I came along. That was a disasterous day, I realize; but give me time, and I think I can prove it otherwise. I have plans, at least. Given enough money and man hours, I can work them out. The trouble, ~~if anything~~ this spring was lack of planning, rather than too much planning. A good part of the time I spent after the end of school was on trips to Philly, for parts. This can be avoided.

He is my outline for a fall expansion program:

- 1) Install two new preamps, which will be 80% complete by the time I come back, if I am authorized to spend the necessary money.
- 2) Do our damndest to buy two new turntables and pickups.
- 3) Work over Bryn Mawr preamp, or one of ours, to bring their quality up to a presentable level.
- 4) Rebuild our transmitter on a chassis, duplicating its present circuit. This will cost \$7-\$10, since only new purchases will be in hardware.
- 5) Soundproof studios with acousti-celetex, starting with new studio.
- 6) Build remote equipment, if necessary to fulfill advertising contracts.
- 7) Finish trim of engineer's booth. .
- 8) Build remote equipment anyway.
- 9) Extend coverage to Language house.
- 10) Finish trim of new studio as planned, and plan furniture for old studio.
- 11) Start drive for auditorium studio, either in second floor auditorium, or - oh well, it'll be June by then.

Some of these things can be going on at the same time; the order may be reversed, and some may never get done. The order is pretty much by importance, however.

I have been reading like mad recently on High-fidelity sound systems. This makes me prepared to begin designing the amplifier setups, if I have a little data. I would like for Jud to send me anything he has on the frequency characteristics of the various types of phonograph records, or bibliography on the subject. The same data on pickups is essential, also. I want the model numbers of the pickups we

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already own; any data about the two new mikes; and any literature Albert picked up during his "acoustically perfect phonograph" spree. These will all be treasured and returned as soon as possible. Just as important too, I would like to know how much money the club has to spend on pickups, turntables, new speakers, and the new preamp. I can buy these (except the motors) at 60% of list price here in Buffalo. Please inform me of any decisions the club makes in these matters; I can't move until I know how much I have to spend, and I very much do want to get started on this work. Time's a-wastin. Of course, I can only do what you will let me do, since I'm not paying for things myself.

This letter has been all about WHAV- but don't forget I have an interest in the Nautical Club too. Could you get me the NEWSes since July 11? That's the last one I have. I'm sure things are sailing along merrily, but much too soberly. I haven't heard of any mass murder of the Beard of Managers, so I suppose the Revolution hasn't started yet.

Life in Buffalo has its advantages and disadvantages- I find that I prefer ~~enjoy~~ the leisure class life, as practiced in the Best Damn Small Liberal Arts College in the World. You may not agree that it is a leisure class life, but wait and see! Well, keep up the good work- and remember

Your friend

Dick

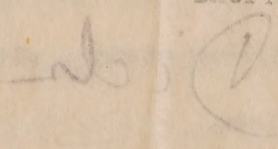
P.S. Letters to ~~Enid DuPont~~
R. D. Rivers
Engineering Section
E. I. DuPont Co.
Buffalo 7, N.Y.

Packages to 255 Esser Ave.
Buffalo N.Y.

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